

## BOOK REVIEWS

**DIE HAUTTUBERKULOSE UND IHRE THERAPIE.** By Prof. Dr. Gustav Riehl and Dr. Oswald Kopf. Verlag Wilhelm Maudrich, Wien—1950.

This book, in German, is an excellent summary of our knowledge of cutaneous tuberculosis and particularly of its successful treatment with vitamin D<sub>2</sub>. The authors are particularly qualified to speak on this subject as they have a wealth of clinical material upon which to draw. One can see as many cases of cutaneous tuberculosis in a day's visit to the Lupus Heilstat and the Wilhelminenspital in Vienna as he would see in a lifetime in dermatology in California.

After a general review of the subject, with excellent clinical photographs, the authors take up in detail the treatment which has done so much to conquer this disease, namely vitamin D<sub>2</sub>. The "before and after" photographs show the good results of treatment. Other forms of therapy such as Finsen-Lomholt lamp therapy, tuberculin, local applications and surgery are well covered.

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**BRIDGES FOOD AND BEVERAGE ANALYSIS.** By Marjorie R. Mattice, A.B., Sc.M., Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, Graduate School of Medicine, College of Medical Evangelists, Los Angeles. Third Edition, Thoroughly Revised. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1950. \$5.50.

This is probably the most comprehensive reference of its kind available to the physician. It presents under one cover a great abundance of data convenient for answering specific inquiries about the values of foods. However, it has several disadvantages: To begin with, it buries in its almost 400 pages the complete picture of any one food. This defect is especially apparent to the student and dietitian who must plan a diet embracing vitamins and minerals as well as nutritive and caloric values. There is also a considerable inconsistency in emphasis: For example, the acidity and alkalinity tables are presented in great detail, whereas there is brief treatment for the cholesterol and amino acid contents of food. No tables of ideal weights for adults are given. Tables 8 and 9 (of average weights for men and women) are misleading to the student and ignore the fact that the average weight of older American adults is far above the ideal and that the mortality is correspondingly higher. The calcium and oxalic table of foods could be benefited by adding a footnote for comparing the percentage of calcium in milk and cheese. While many common "brand" foods are included, there are many, equally common, omitted (e.g., Triscuit, Monterey Jack cheese, chewing gum, etc.).

It seems too bad that there is such a variation in the values for the same food as given by different authorities in the nutritional field. It is also too bad that an authority such as this one should give contradictory values for the same food. For instance, on page 81, a 50 gm. egg is listed as having 6.7 gm. of protein, 5.2 gm. of fat and 75 calories, whereas a 50 gm. *poached* egg is listed as having 6.2 gm. of protein, 5.8 gm. of fat and 80 calories. Perhaps the figures were compiled from different investigators at different times and were not studied by the compiler.

For a future edition of this volume, the reviewer suggests that the principal tables be divided into groups of foods (such as cereals, milk, meats and legumes) with as complete a picture as possible of the food composition including carbohydrates, proteins, fats, minerals, vitamins, acidity and alkalinity, cholesterol, amino acids and calories.

Despite these various criticisms, the book is still recommended as being as good a reference as one can find in its field.

**PROCTOLOGY IN GENERAL PRACTICE.** By J. Peer-man Nesselrod, B.S., M.S., M.Sc. (Med.) M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.P.S., Associate in Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School. Illustrated. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1950. \$6.00.

This is a highly personalized book. The author gives an account of his own ideas, experiences and practice; he details just how he works to a much greater extent than is found in the average medical text. As one is guided through the various chapters, which include the fundamental anatomy and physiology, diagnostic procedures and disease conditions of the anus and rectum, one feels much more than usual that the author is personally standing over his shoulder. The illustrations are well done and explicit; the paper and printing are good.

The use of the book, as its title implies, is primarily for the general practitioner who wishes to do diagnostic or operative proctology. It is a sound and practical manual which can be readily recommended.

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**HUMAN STERILIZATION TECHNIQUES OF PERMANENT CONCEPTION CONTROL.** By Robert Latou Dickinson, M.D., and Clarence James Gamble, M.D. May be ordered from Planned Parenthood Federation of America, 501 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y. 1950.

This is an attractively gotten-up brochure on the subject of sterilization. It discusses the possible reasons for the procedure, the commonly employed techniques, the efficiency of these techniques, and the implications. It is well illustrated by line drawings. Under indications are included mental deficiency, certain cases of mental disease and of epilepsy, and inheritable diseases which kill, cripple, or severely handicap. Also included are conditions which have necessitated an excessive quota of cesarean sections, diseases of the heart, lungs or kidneys which make pregnancy hazardous, excessive number of children or enfeebled health which render further pregnancy an unwarrantable risk, mental illness which causes child care to constitute a serious complication, mental deficiency and psychosis which interfere with the proper upbringing of potential children, and the circumstance in which "a man and wife have produced all the children they can rear with health, happiness and usefulness for progeny and parents."

Anatomy and techniques are described for both male and female. The illustrations make this section clear even to the uninitiated. The authors appear to favor the Pomeroy technique. The small and decreasing percentage of failures is remarked.

One section is devoted to the thesis that the usual techniques, involving the interruption of the continuity of the Fallopian tubes in the female, and of the vas deferens in the male do not interfere with sexual function, an idea often held erroneously. The authors wish to disabuse the public of the idea that sterilization (by the technique mentioned) means castration.

The reviewer fails to comprehend the intention of the brochure. Its language and format suggest that it is intended for the laity; if so, the sections dealing with technique are needlessly detailed and contain words not easily understood by this group. If the brochure is for the profession, it is incomplete.

The authors' philosophy appears to be eugenically sound but how widely accepted it will be cannot be said. Certainly not everyone will approve of many of the indications espoused by the authors.